

Remarks/Arguments

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action dated January 27, 2005 and the documents cited therewith. Claims 4, 22, 24, 35, 40, 58, 59, 62, 68, and 71-73 have been amended. Claims 1-3, 16-21, 34, 38, 39, 52-57 and 70 have been canceled. Claims 5-15, 23, 25-33, 36, 37, 41-51, 60, 61, 63-67, and 69 remain in the application.

Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the discussion below.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendments and allowance of the application at an early date is respectfully requested.

Objections to Drawings

FIGs. 1-3 have been amended to include "Prior Art" legends in accordance with MPEP § 608.02(g).

Claim Objections

Claims 4, 22, 35, 40, 58 and 71 were rewritten in independent form and include the original limitations which they originally depend on, to address the examiner's objection.

Claims 22, 24, 35, 58, 62, 68, 72, and 73 were amended to correct typographical errors discovered while preparing the present response. For example, Claim 73 has been amended to recite "the apparatus for performing cryptographic validity services of Claim 72, wherein the means for formulating the a Query comprises means for performing consistency checking on the Validation Request. The definite article "the" replaced the indefinite article "a" to provide proper antecedent basis in the claim.

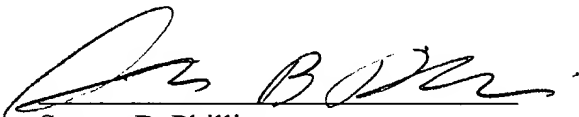
Conclusion

Applicants believe they have responded to all of the concerns raised by the Examiner. If the Examiner has any questions about the present response, a telephone interview is requested. Reconsideration of this application as amended is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Applicant)

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